

TOM HARKIN
5TH DISTRICT, IOWA

324 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3806

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 7, 1977

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(712) 328-9433

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CRESTON, IOWA 50801
(515) 782-5727

5
ACTION
is assigned to

ARA

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining the efforts that you took during your visit to Argentina regarding the status of human rights in that country.

However, you made no mention of any effort made to hold General Videla to his reported promise to President Carter that he would renew the "right of option" for political prisoners. This point was raised three times prior to your trip to Argentina: a letter dated October 18 from Congressman Toby Moffett, by myself in questions to you during your meeting with the 94th and 95th New Members Caucus on November 1, and in a letter from me dated November 2, 1977. I believe at the meeting of the New Members Caucus both you and Doug Bennet made a note on the "right of option" question and indicated you would bring it up while in Argentina. I am interested to know if it was in fact raised with General Videla, and if so, what his response was regarding the restoration of the "right of option."

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin

Tom Harkin
Member of Congress

TH:djb

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

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